Appl. No. 09/848,392

Amdt. dated January 20, 2005

Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2004

AFTER FINAL EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REMARKS

Claims 67 to 122 were pending in the application at the time of examination. Claims 67, 83, 100 and 111 stand provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 67, 68, 71, 75, 83, 84, 85, 88, 92, 100, 101, 104, 108, 111, 112, 113, 116, and 120 stand rejected as obvious. Claims 69, 70, 72 to 74, 76 to 82, 86, 87, 89 to 91, 93 to 99, 102, 103, 105 to 107, 109, 110, 114, 115, 117 to 119, 121, and 122 stand objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsibility for the above application has been transferred to the undersigned Attorney. Please direct all further correspondence to the undersigned attorney. A Revocation of Attorney and Appointment of New Attorney is being submitted under separate cover.

In view of the objection to the specification, Applicants have amended the description to properly reflect the serial number of the application cited as a Related Application.

Claims 67, 83, 100 and 111 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1, 17, 34 and 50 of copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/947,781. Claims 67, 83, 100 and 111 have been cancelled and thereby render this rejection moot. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Applicants note that the Examiner indicated that Claims 69, 70, 72 to 74, 76 to 82, 86, 87, 89 to 91, 93 to 99, 102, 103, 105 to 107, 109, 110, 114, 115, 117 to 119, 121 and 122 recite patentable subject matter. In view of the objection, Applicants have amended the claims as follows.

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The limitations of Claims 67 and 68 have been included in Claims 69, and Claims 67 and 68 have been cancelled.

Claim 71 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 69.

The limitations of Claims 67 and 71 have been included in Claim 72.

Claim 75 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 69.

The limitations of Claims 67 and 75 have been included in Claim 76.

The limitations of Claims 83, 84, and 85 have been included in Claims 86, and Claims 83 to 85 have been cancelled.

Claim 88 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 86.

The limitations of Claims 83, 84, and 88 have been included in Claim 89.

Claim 92 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 86.

The limitations of Claims 83, 84 and 92 have been included in Claim 93.

The limitations of Claims 100 and 101 have been included in Claims 102, and Claims 100 and 101 have been cancelled.

Claim 104 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 102.

The limitations of Claims 100 and 104 have been included in Claim 105.

Claim 108 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 102.

The limitations of Claims 100 and 108 have been included in Claim 109.

The limitations of Claims 111, 112, and 113 have been included in Claims 114, and Claims 111 to 113 have been cancelled.

Claim 116 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 114.

The limitations of Claims 111, 112, and 116 have been included in Claim 117.

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Claim 120 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 114.

The limitations of Claims 111, 112 and 120 have been included in Claim 121.

In view of the objections to the Claims, these amendments place Claims 69, 70, 72 to 74, 76 to 82, 86, 87, 89 to 91, 93 to 99, 102, 103, 105 to 107, 109, 110, 114, 115, 117 to 119, 121 and 122 in condition for allowance.

The amendments to Claims 71, 75, 88, 92, 104, 108, 116, and 120 change the dependency of each claim to a claim that the Examiner indicated was allowable. Accordingly, each of these claims is also patentable.

Thus, the amendments to the Claims place the application into a condition for allowance and so entry of this paper under Rule 116 is appropriate. Accordingly, Applicants request entry of this paper.

Since the Claims remaining in the application were indicated as allowable, or depend from Claims that were indicated as allowable, the amendments render the obviousness rejections moot. Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the obviousness rejections.

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Claims 69 to 82, 86 to 99, 102 to 110 and 114 to 122 remain in the application. Claims 1 to 66 were previously canceled. Claims 69, 71, 72, 75, 76, 86, 88, 89, 92, 93, 102, 104, 105, 108, 109, 114, 116, 117, 120, and 121 have been amended. Claims 67, 68, 83 to 85, 100, 101, and 111 to 113 are canceled. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant(s) respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 20, 2005.

Attorney for Applicant(s)

January 20, 2005
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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